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REMARKS:

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- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please indicate the acceptance of the drawings filed on January 14, 2004.
- 2) Referring to item 12) of the Office Action Summary, please acknowledge the foreign priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, which was filed herein on April 30, 2004.
- 3) The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 14, 2004. Please consider the cited reference, and return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 of January 14, 2004.
- 4) The claims have been amended as follows. A typographical error has been corrected in claim 1. Previous independent method claim 19 has been amended into dependent form, depending from apparatus claim 1. The claim amendments do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.
- 5) In reply to the Restriction Requirement, applicant hereby elects the Group I apparatus claims 1 to 18 for examination.
- 6) The non-elected Group II method claims 19 to 22 have been amended to depend from elected apparatus claim 1. The dependent method claims are thus directed to a method of using the particular

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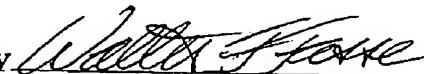
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apparatus according to claim 1 (with all the features and limitations of claim 1 incorporated by reference), for performing a particular method of thermally sterilizing the microbiologically contaminated liquid to produce the thermally treated liquid. If the elected apparatus claims are ultimately found allowable, then the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin, consider and allow the non-elected dependent method-of-use claims 19 to 22, in accordance with M.P.E.P. 821.04 and 2116.01. In the meantime, the Examiner will presumably hold the claims 19 to 22 as "withdrawn".

- 7) Favorable consideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 22, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

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Enclosures:
Transmittal Cover Sheet

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 4/11/07
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: April 11, 2007